

# An Introduction to the Housing Navigation role at Developmental Services Ontario

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# What is the DSO?



Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) helps adults with developmental disabilities find ministry funded services and supports in their community. There are nine offices located across the province.



# The DSO will help you:

- **understand and complete** the application process.
- **determine** the kind of services and supports you need.
- **get access** to MCCSS funded services and supports that you need when a spot is available.
- find **information** in your community.



# How do I contact the DSO?

**Call 2-1-1 or visit [dsonthario.ca](https://www.dsonthario.ca)**



**Call the DSO office in your area to start the application process—you can apply as early as age 16!**



# Helping people understand individual housing options

Whether individuals already have a vision for where they'd like to live, or need assistance putting it together, a housing navigator can help.



# The role of the housing navigator

We seek to provide individuals, families and their support networks with the information and resources needed to create a unique and person-centered housing model.



# What we do

- Point to resources and organizations that can help create a plan
- Provide a tool kit of resources
- Connect you with family support networks to share information
- Work with housing organizations to find local options and opportunities
- Share success stories of people on a similar journey as you



# Resources we provide

- A list of services and resources available to families, both ministry and non-ministry funded
- Self-assessments and questionnaires to help people decide their housing goals and preferred housing types
- Success stories from those who have created innovative housing options
- Contact information for family support networks





# Finding partnerships

**In addition to family support networks, partnerships may include:**

- Families / people looking for roommates in your area
- Families / people with a housing model in mind
- People looking to pool resources



# Regional housing resources

- Social housing application process
- Ontario Renovates applications
- List of municipal housing initiatives
- List of local housing with affordable rents



# Survey of DS Sector partners and families

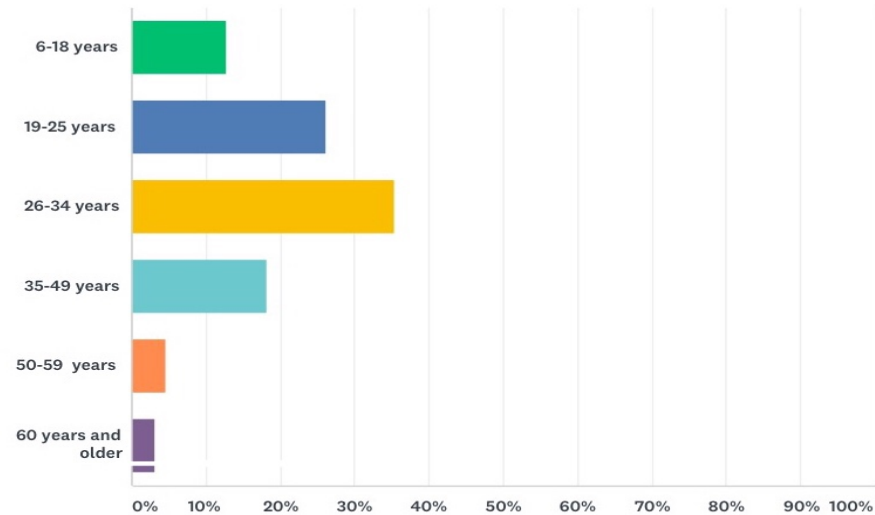
- 418 responses were received over a three week period
- Feedback was received from across the 9 DSO regions in Ontario
- Responses were received from individuals who are at various different stages of the planning process



# Survey of DS Sector partners and families

What is the age of the person who is planning or who you are supporting in their planning?

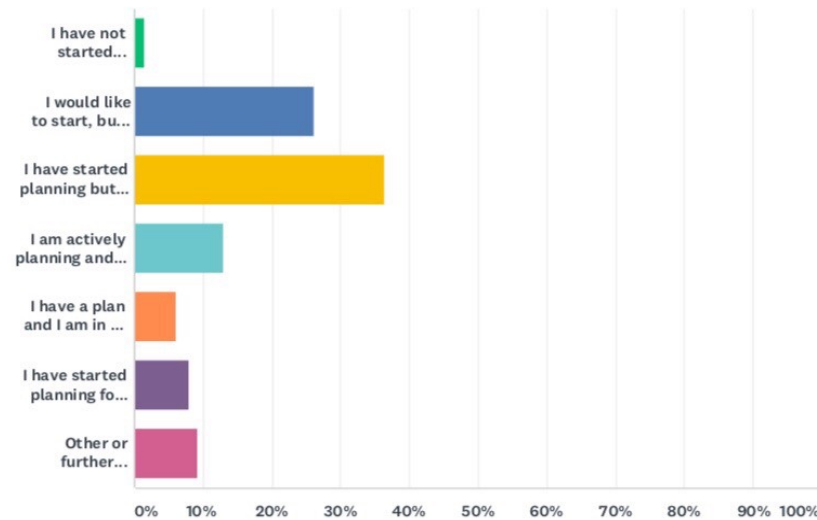
Answered: 417 Skipped: 1



# Survey of DS Sector partners and families

Of the following options, how would you describe your current stage of planning?

Answered: 402 Skipped: 16



# Tool kit topics of interest included...

- Physical accessibility; beyond building codes
- How to develop a comprehensive and sustainable plan
- Financial models and support, ownership structures, etc.
- Sample budgets for various housing options
- Money management and options for support
- Legal aspects of employing staff, recruiting and retaining staff
- Models for family collaboration
- Creative employment and micro enterprising
- List of developers who are interested in building housing with people with developmental disabilities in mind



# Lynn's homemade plan



# Peter's story – forever home





# We want your input!

- Where do you think housing `navigators can make the biggest impact in helping people plan for and secure housing and housing supports?
- In Toronto region, I am and will be hosting and presenting at housing related gatherings. What topics would you like to see covered during these presentations?



# What's next?

Questions & Comments



# Connect With Your local DSO

**Please send any feedback or connection requests through your local DSO.**

DSO Toronto Region

**Your housing navigator:**

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# Connect with the DSO!

## [dsontario.ca](http://dsontario.ca)

